



Serial No. 10/572,378

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENTS AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NIF-107

Applicant : Kazuyoshi Koizumi et al.
Title : ROTARY DAMPER
Serial No. : 10/572,378
Filed : March 16, 2006
Group Art Unit : 3683
Examiner : Mahbubur Rashid

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 9, 2009

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is a response to the Final Action of October 20, 2008.

On page 2 of the final Action, claims 1 and 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Sugawara et al. Also, it was indicated on page 5 of the final Action, that Hayashi is qualified as prior art under subsection (a) of section 102; therefore, the rejection of 103(a) is valid and proper.

In view of the rejection, verified translations of Japanese Patent Applications No. 2003-324890 filed on September 17, 2003 and No. 2004-007951 filed on January 15, 2004 are submitted herewith. The priority documents of the Japanese applications were submitted in the Patent Office. Priorities of the Japanese applications are claimed herewith.

Since the original Japanese Applications were filed prior to the publication date of Hayashi, Hayashi is not the prior art of 35

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